

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) In a fuel filter comprising
a filter housing,
at least one filter element contained in the housing,
at least two connections, at least one of which connections serves as a fuel inlet and at least one of which serves as a fuel outlet, the improvement wherein the filter element is embodied as flat.

16. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprises a folded filter material.

17. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 16, wherein the filter material is folded essentially into the shape of a block.

18. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel outlet.

19. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter element comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel outlet.

20. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprise an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

21. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter element comprise an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

22. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the filter element comprise an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

23. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

24. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 20, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

Applicant: Julen Burgoa ARTECHE et al.
Docket No. R.306459
Preliminary Amdt.

25. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the connections is situated at an end of the filter housing.

26. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 25, characterized in that at least two of the connections are situated at opposite ends of the filter housing.

27. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising of a flow entry that at least reduces turbulence in the region of the side where the flow strikes the filter element.

28. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

29. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 20, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the connection serving as the fuel inlet.

30. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 29, wherein the flow baffle is inclined upward in relation to the flow direction.

31. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

Applicant: Julen Burgoa ARTECHE et al.
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32. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

33. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 31, wherein the housing part and the cover are connected to each other by means of a nondetachable connection.

34. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a distribution stabilizer on the inlet side.